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MCICSL Newsletter - November 2015

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November 2015 Highlights

Partners Recognized for Water Quality Research at Mammoth Cave National Park and Increasing Diversity in the Geosciences

Our partners at Tennessee State University (TSU) and the USGS have been studying parking lot and road runoff at Mammoth Cave National Park for almost 9 years. In October, two of the TSU graduate students and their faculty advisors presented their research at the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium in Cave City, KY. The students and their advisors were also invited to present their work at the Karst Water Institute in Puerto Rico in Jan, 2016. We are very proud of them and appreciate the research they are conducting.

In November, articles about their research were published in *The Tennessean* and *Water Online*, a professional online news journal. Links to the full articles are below.

Safe Drinking Water: TSU Student And Faculty Research Help To Keep Nation Water Supply Free Of Pollutants. Nov. 6, 2015. *Water Online*. <http://www.wateronline.com/doc/safe-drinking-keep-nation-water-pollutants-0001?>

TSU teams with feds to fight water pollution. Nov. 15, 2015. *The Tennessean*. <http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/education/2015/11/15/tsu-teams-feds-fight-water-pollution/75729996/>



Texas A&M – Galveston Students Participate in Citizen Science at Mammoth Cave National Park

Nov. 22-23, students in Texas A&M – Galveston's biospeleology class participated in activities with the Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning. The students learned about resource protection and management in a cave used for tourism and collected data for two research projects.

Northern Kentucky University and the Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning to Host Partners in the Parks Program at Mammoth Cave National Park

This fall, our partner in the Northern Kentucky University Honors Program submitted a proposal for a 2016 Partners in the Parks (PIP) program at Mammoth Cave National Park. In early November, we found out that the proposal was one of 11 proposals accepted for 2016.

PIP programs offer college honors students and faculty the opportunity to participate in weeklong, hands-on, learning opportunities at a variety of National Parks across the country. The program is sponsored by The National Collegiate Honors Council.

The Mammoth Cave National Park PIP program will take place June 5-11, 2016. Participants will collect data for two citizen science projects while learning about the variety of resources that the park protects and the different career paths within the NPS.

Interested college honors students should visit the Partners in the Parks website (<http://nchchonors.org/partners-in-the-parks/>) or talk to their Honors Program Coordinators for more information.



Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning to Organize and Host 11th Mammoth Cave Research Symposium

2016 is an important year for Mammoth Cave National Park. It represents the 200th anniversary of guided tours in Mammoth Cave, 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, 75th anniversary of Mammoth Cave becoming a National Park, 35th anniversary of Mammoth Cave National Park becoming a World Heritage site, and 26th anniversary of Mammoth Cave National Park becoming the core of an International Biosphere Reserve.

As part of the 2016 celebrations, the Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning (MCICSL) and Mammoth Cave National Park will host the 11th Mammoth Cave Research Symposium, April 18-30, 2016. The Symposium will celebrate the area's rich legacy of research spanning fields as diverse as biology, geology, history, archeology, education, and social sciences.

Those interested in presenting at the Symposium should contact Shannon Trimboli, MCICSL Education Coordinator, at shannon.trimboli@wku.edu or shannon_trimboli@contractor.nps.gov. The deadline for submitting abstracts for presentations is January, 8, 2016.

Students in the University of Cincinnati's Transition and Access Program (TAP) Visit Mammoth Cave

Nov. 7, students from the University of Cincinnati's Transition and Access Program (TAP) visited Mammoth Cave National Park and worked with the Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning. The students saw and learned about the geology and history of Mammoth Cave and the impact of water movement on our environment.



November Education Highlights

Below is a sample of the many educational activities that MCICSL facilitated or led this month.

- Western Kentucky University semester-long honors class on Mammoth Cave National Park.
- University of Cincinnati students learned about the geology of Mammoth Cave.
- Tennessee Tech University cave biology students participated in a citizen science project and an in-depth educational experience in Mammoth Cave.
- Western Kentucky University geology students learned about the geology of Mammoth Cave.
- Texas A&M - Galveston biospeleology class participated in two citizen science projects and an in-depth educational experience at Mammoth Cave.

November Research Highlights

Below is a sample of the many research projects occurring at MCNP this month.

- Aquatic cave biology surveys
- Radio locating places underground on the surface
- Insect herbivory in burned and unburned plots
- Dye traces of local karst hydrology
- Determining cave water discharge rates
- Cave survey and mapping

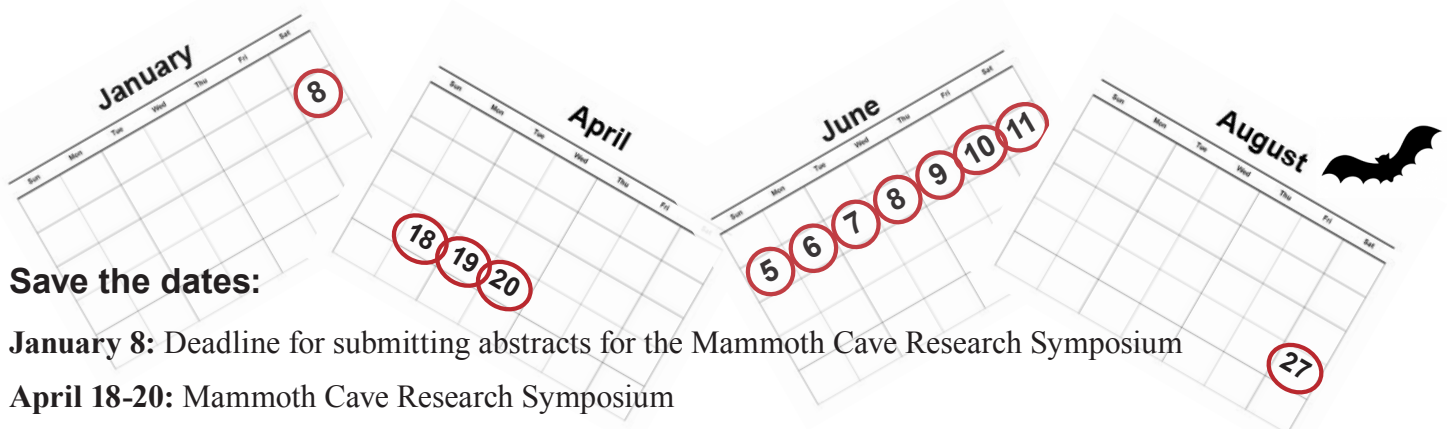
Continued Assistance Needed in Identifying Potential Funding Sources

The Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning (MCICSL) is currently funded through projects and grant money. Some of the funding sources we have used in the past will likely become unavailable within the next year. In order to continue operating, we need to find new sources for potential long-term funding. If you know of a possible source, please email Shannon Trimboli, MCICSL Education Coordinator, at shannon.trimboli@wku.edu.



There will be no December newsletter.

Happy Holidays!



Save the dates:

January 8: Deadline for submitting abstracts for the Mammoth Cave Research Symposium

April 18-20: Mammoth Cave Research Symposium

June 5-11: National Collegiate Honors Council Partners in the Park at Mammoth Cave National Park

August 27: Bat Night



Follow our activities on social media.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mammoth-Cave-International-Center-for-Science-and-Learning/842046972539082>